

**A CONVERSATIONAL PORTAL FOR PROVIDING CONVERSATIONAL
BROWSING AND MULTIMEDIA BROADCAST ON DEMAND**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for providing conversational
5 (multi-modal) access to information over a communications
network from any location, at any time, utilizing any type
of client/access, through a conversational (multi-modal)
portal. In one aspect, a conversational portal comprises a
conversational (multi-modal) browser that is capable of
10 conducting multi-modal dialog with client/access devices
having varying input/output (I/O) modalities. The
conversational browser retrieves information (such as
content pages, applications) from an information source
(e.g., content server) in response to a request from a
15 requesting client/access device and then serves the
retrieved information to the requesting client/access device
in a format that is compatible with the I/O modalities of
the requesting client/access device. In another aspect, the
conversational portal provides multimedia access on demand.
20 The conversational portal comprises an audio indexing system
for segmenting and indexing audio and multimedia data
obtained from an information source, as well as a
multi-media database for storing the indexed audio and
multi-media data. A subscribing user can compose and

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maintain a broadcast program wherein the user specifies which types, and in what order, different segments (news, radio, etc.) stored in the database are played back/broadcasted to the user.

004070-040700